AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The surrogate 200 has a surrogate's head 202 that includes one or more surrogate face displays 204 such as one or more CRT's or liquid crystal display (LCD) panels. The displays 204 show images 206 of the user's head taken by cameras 112 (FIG. 1) while one or more speakers 208 project the user's voice obtained from microphones at the user's location. In addition, one or more cameras 210 capture live video images at the surrogate's location 108 while one or more microphones 212 receive sounds at the surrogate's location 108. These captured images and sounds are reproduced at the display apparatus 100. For example, images from the cameras 210 may be compressed and transmitted over a high-speed network by a surrogate's transceiver-computer system 214 in the surrogate 200[[106]] to the user's computer system 114 (shown in FIG. 1) at the user's location. Preferably, a display 204 is positioned at each of four sides of the head 202, while a speaker 208, a camera 210 and a microphone 212 are positioned at each of the four corners of the head 202. Thus, depending upon the angular orientation of the user's head, one or more of the speakers 208 may be selected to direct the user's voice in a direction that corresponds to the angular orientation of the user's head.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] The processing steps performed to determine the angular orientation of the local user's head will now be discussed in connection with FIG. 4. FIG. 4 shows an exemplary flowchart of a method for determining an angular orientation of a user's head in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. At the outset, it should be understood that the processing steps discussed below could be performed by any suitable processing device, such as computer(s) 114 (FIG. 1) configured to operate according to a stored software program, the software program being encoded on a computer readable medium. The processing steps can also be performed by a dedicated computing device, such as an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) or the like. In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the processing devices are computers, each equipped with a video capture card that provides for

image processing on a frame-by-frame basis. As discussed above, the rear projection screen 104 is uniformly illuminated with near-infrared light by the near-infrared illuminators 106. The video image of the remote location, if any, is then projected on to the rear projection screen 104 by the rear projector 108. The local user is positioned generally within the center of the display apparatus 100.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] Then, in step 308, a luminance value is assigned to each position in a polar plot. This step essentially projects luminance values obtained from a two-dimensional image of the user's head onto a three-dimensional object that approximates the user's head. FIG. 5 shows a camera 112 (FIG. 1) viewing a user in the display apparatus 100, as seen from above. The user's head (including their hair) is approximated by a cylindrical section 402. In a preferred embodiment, the diameter of the cylindrical section 402 is ten inches, though it will be apparent that a larger or smaller diameter may be selected. An origin is assigned to the cylindrical section 402[[404]] for the polar plot.